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Fourth Annual Human Trafficking Conference To Be Held May 28 At The Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville 800 South Rolling Road, Baltimore, MD 21228-5317

More than 400 people are expected to attend the Fourth Annual Governor's Conference on Combating Human Trafficking on **Thursday, May 28** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:05 p.m. This event continues the work of the previous three years' conferences and provides attendees with progressive approaches to supporting survivors and investigating traffickers.

"Human trafficking is an insidious crime that strikes at the very fiber of our communities – our families, and our children," said Governor Larry Hogan. "We have made progress in our fight against human trafficking, but there is much more to do. We will not rest until every survivor of this despicable crime is restored, and every trafficker is brought to justice."

"Forcing a young girl or boy into prostitution, or a vulnerable adult into harsh labor trafficking is unconscionable," said Chris Shank, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP). "It is unacceptable, and it must be stopped."

The Conference will be held at the Center for the Arts and will offer a yearly review by the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, a Survivor's Panel Discussion, and individual workshops led by state and national experts on such topics as labor trafficking, sex trafficking, gang involvement, advanced treatment and services, school protocols and law enforcement response.

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Maryland had the 8th highest call rate reporting human trafficking in the nation in 2013. Approximately one-third of the calls were related to possible labor trafficking.

This conference is a partnership of GOCCP, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, U.S. Attorney's Office - District of Maryland, TurnAround, Inc., Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and Araminta Freedom Initiative and Maryland State Agencies.

GOCCP is on social media. You can find us on <http://www.twitter.com/goccp> and on Facebook as [goccpmd](#).

EDITORS: The Conference will begin with opening remarks at 8:30 and your coverage is invited. While workshops throughout the day will be closed to media since they deal with criminal investigations or confidential stories of individual victims, media is welcome to attend the opening plenary sessions in the theater of the Arts Building. **We can arrange interviews with a survivor, and staff members of service organizations who work to help survivors.**

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